

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /082 W
-----011246 182047Z /40

R 171415Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1234
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652/ N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: MANDELA AFTERMATH: SAG PURSUES SILENT WHITES

REF: PRETORIA 2157 AND 2375

1. ON MAY 12, THE BLOEMFONTEIN MAGISTRATES' COURT SENTENCED MR. ILLONA KLEINSCHMIDT TO THREE MONTHS IN JAIL FOR REFUSING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON A CONVERSATION IN 1977 WHICH SHE, ALONG WITH THREE OTHER WOMEN, HAD WITH THE BANNED AND EXILED WINNIE MANDELA IN BRANDFORT, ORANGE FREE STATE. AS REPORTED IN REFTELS, ONE WEEK AFTER KLEINSCHMIDT WAS ACQUITTED ON A TECHNICALITY FOR REFUSING TO ANSWER THESE SAME QUESTIONS, SHE RECEIVED A SECOND SUBPOENA FROM THE COURT. KLEINSCHMIDT WAS RELEASED ON NOMINAL BAIL AND HAS APPEALED AGAINST THE SENTENCE.

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2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MS. JACKIE BOSMAN, ALSO ACQUITTED WITH KLEINSCHMIDT IN APRIL, IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE A SECOND SUBPOENA REQUIRING HER TO ANSWER THE SAME QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO HER CONVERSATION WITH MANDELA. BOSMAN IS NOT EXPECTED TO COOPERATE WITH THE COURT AND WILL PROBABLY RECEIVE AND APPEAL AGAINST A SENTENCE TO SIMILAR TO KLEINSCHMIDT'S.

3. OF THE TWO WOMEN WHO WERE CONVICTED IN APRIL FOR MAINTAINING THEIR SILENCE, HELEN JOSEPH (73) HAS COMPLETED HER TWO WEEK SENTENCE AND BARBARA WAITE IS STILL SERVING HER TWO MONTH TERM. JOSEPH HAS NOT AS OF YET BEEN SERVED WITH AN ADDITIONAL SUBPOENA.

4. COMMENT: VERY FEW SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES OPPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT ARE WILLING TO GO TO JAIL ON A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE; EVEN FEWER ARE WILLING TO DO SO TO PROTECT A BLACK WOMAN. YET, DESPITE CURSORY PRESS ATTENTION, THE STEADFASTNESS OF THESE FOUR WOMEN AGAINST BOTH THE SAG AND AN UNOFFICIAL INTIMIDATION CAMPAIGN HAS NOT GONE UNRECOGNIZED AMONG SOME POLITICIZED BLACK AND WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS. BEFORE THE JAILINGS BECAME A CAUSE CELEBRE, EITHER HERE OR ABROAD, THE SAG WILL PROBABLY PURSUE THE LIMITED OBJECTIVE OF HAVING ALL FOUR SPEND SOME TIME, HOWEVER MINIMAL, IN JAIL AS A PRICE FOR THEIR SILENCE.

5. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.

NELSON

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: COURT DECISIONS, SECURITY CONTROLS
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Draft Date: 17 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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